

## New Federal Law to Benefit Abused or Neglected Children in Utah

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Children in foster care may now have increased opportunities for care by relatives through strengthened requirements and resources for locating and notifying relatives, ability to waive non-safety licensing requirements on a case by case basis; and, at State option, availability of relative guardianship assistance.

Foster children will also benefit from requirements for siblings to be placed together or to connect through frequent visitation. Increased efforts will be made to keep children in the school they attended before being removed. Older foster youth will lead in developing a transition plan for housing, health insurance, education, workforce supports, employment and more.

An increasing number of children who are adopted from foster care will also qualify for Federal adoption assistance benefits as changes are implemented over the next ten years. In addition, the State has the option to extend Federal adoption assistance, foster care, or relative guardianship assistance to youth up to age 21.

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